

The Marinette and Menominee Amateur Radio Club

GROUND WAVE

Repeater Frequencies 147.00MHz & 444.075MHz
Club Net: Sunday 7PM 147.00MHz

Web Page <http://w8pif.com>



Officers:

President: Jim Callow K8IR
Vice President: Pete Johnson, AB9PJ
Treasurer: Mike Lemke, KD8FUE
Secretary: Mark Erickson KD8ESH

The MMARC Newsletter

September 2011

SEPTEMBER MEETING POSTPONED TO SEPTEMBER 15TH DUE TO PACKERS SEASON OPENER

CLUB CALENDAR...

September 15 Club Meeting NWTC
September 17 Special Event Oconto Airport
October 13 Club Meeting NWTC

SEPTEMBER MEETING...

The NFL and the Packers decided they wanted to open the season on our regular meeting night, so we're moving to the following Thursday, September 15th. We'll meet at 7pm at NWTC. We've reserved a room, but at this point, we don't know which one, so check the net on Sunday night or the doors at NWTC on the meeting night for directions to the room. The agenda includes election of officers and the current slate has agreed to serve for another year. We also will discuss the Oconto Airport special event, and talk about plans for the

coming year. We hope you can make it to the first meeting of the fall.

CLUB PICNIC...

The annual picnic was held on Sunday August 21st at Henes Park. As usual a good time was had by all.

Special thanks to Dave and Jeanne Arnold for hosting another session of Ham Radio Bingo. This is a game where everyone wins, and thanks to the Arnolds for a great selection of prizes. I've already put the precision screwdriver set I won to use in the shack.

Thanks to our hosts for organizing the event: Paul and Maxine Drees, Bob and Marge Schrader, Mike Lemke, and Jim and Joan Callow. And thanks to everyone who brought a

dish to pass. As usual, no one went home hungry.

PICNIC IN PICTURES...



Mike, KD8FUE mans the grill while members make eyeball QSOs.



Did we mention food?



A prize for everyone playing Ham Radio Bingo.

All pictures by KG8CX

REPEATER ACTIVITY DOWN...

Where are all the hams? Other than the M&M Net on Sunday evenings, our high visibility and wide coverage repeater lies mostly quiet. No less than four area hams have remarked on the lack of activity in recent months. There was a time not too long ago when call signs were given and answered. Now, more often than not, someone throws out their call and gets no response. Although, when a Skywarn callup is made, there is no shortage of response from many operators.

The M&M ARC has spent several thousands of dollars for a heavy duty, high gain antenna, feedline, new duplexers, power amp, and a new Kenwood repeater from an elevation of 415' on a 500' tower. Thanks to Jim Swanson KC8DOA for giving us the opportunity to place our antenna and repeater components on his tower. Our daily work schedules, family time, and other activities all are very important to each of us, and certainly limit any one's ability to get on the air. Summers are typically spent on activities outside of ham radio, and that's certainly expected and probably desirable. As cooler fall and winter weather moves upon us, hopefully more of you will turn on your mobile or base rigs and give the repeater a chance to "play its tune."

No long QSO's, just a call to indicate you are monitoring if only for a short time. Or better yet, answer a call when you hear one.

Now, the 444.075....a dead repeater? No, very much alive and kicking, but unless someone keys it up with their call and engages someone to a QSO, it appears that way. The MCC Run/Walk events every couple of months make good use of it, but only for a few hours. It's a good little Motorola repeater, 70 watts of power from a 100' antenna. Not a wide coverage machine like the 147, but good for 15 to 20 miles and sometimes more.

Give some consideration to putting your call on one or both repeaters when the time and opportunity arises. Let's give those electrons a workout, use our repeaters, and show other

hams and listeners that we have a high quality system with loads of friendly hams ready to communicate our enjoyment of the hobby. Thanks for reading. Your support of the club and its facilities are appreciated. Catch you on the air soon.

SKYWARN ACTIVATION...

A Skywarn activation occurred on August 19th when a tornado warning was issued for Marinette County in the Wausaukee area. Considerable damage occurred with numerous trees toppled, and one fatality. An F1 tornado was recording on an 8 mile path just north of the village with its route briefly over the Menominee River into Menominee County. Large hail was also reported in several locations. A total of 12 operators checked in, several went mobile into both counties. Ed KG8CX, as usual, acted as net control for Tri County Skywarn. The net lasted about 2 hours. Many thanks go to everyone who participated in what turned out to be a serious weather situation.

MCC RUN/WALK NEEDS VOLUNTEER HAMS...

Menominee Catholic Central School is again looking to the local ham community for communications assistance on Saturday September 10th for their "Leap of Faith" 5K event.

The event will start from the school on 10th Avenue at 9am on Saturday and follow the usual course down 10th, across the Hattie Street bridge, west on Riverside Ave. in Marinette to the water station by the KC Mill, then turn around and follow the route back to the school. Aside from net control, about 4 or 5 hams will be needed. If you are able to volunteer your time, be at the MCC by 8:30 that morning.

As always, Dan Paul, the MCC principal, very much appreciates what ham radio has done for his school in the past, and the support we will continue to show for them.

VANITY CALLS GET MORE EXPENSIVE...

On August 10, the FCC announced via a Final Rule in the Federal Register that the cost of an Amateur Radio vanity call sign will increase 90 cents, from \$13.30 to \$14.20. The new fees take effect 30 days after publication, making September 9, 2011, the first day the new fee is in effect.

"The Commission tries to keep the regulatory fee for Vanity call signs as minimal as possible," explained the FCC in its Final Rule. "Between FY 2007 and FY 2010, the regulatory fee for Vanity call signs increased from \$1.17 per year to \$1.33 per year, an increase of \$0.16 per year or \$1.60 over a ten-year license period. We do not believe this increase is inequitable, and the Commission will continue its efforts to keep this fee as minimal as possible. The fees that are collected from Vanity call signs are used to offset the cost of monitoring and researching new call sign requests to prevent the issuance of duplicate call signs."

The vanity call sign fee has fluctuated over the 14 years of the current program -- from a low of \$11.70 in 2007 to a high of \$70 as first proposed in the FCC's 1994 Report and Order. In FY 2011, the FCC expects to grant 14,600 vanity call signs, bringing in \$207,320 from the vanity call sign program, and looks to recover a total of \$336,599,048 in fees from all the Services that it regulates.

The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new term. The first vanity call sign licenses issued under the current Amateur Radio vanity call sign program that began in 1996 came up for renewal five years ago. The FCC is authorized by the Communications Act of 1934, As Amended, to collect vanity call sign fees to recover the costs associated with that program.

**M&M AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
P.O. BOX 1082
MARINETTE, WI 54143**